

**MR. CALLAHAN**

**2/14/66**

**J. B. ADAMS**

**SA J. RICHARD NICHOLS**  
Washington Field Office  
Veteran

**EOD Clerk 4/24/38; Resigned 4/23/38;  
Reinstated 7/1/38 Clerk; Military Leave  
from 7/14/43 to 2/11/46; Last EOD as SA 8/16/48;  
GS-13; \$14,250**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/8/84 BY SP-4 elw/cmb

A [redacted] Cocoa Beach, Florida, called the Bureau on 2/8/66 and purported to be the stepfather of Richard Nichols whose natural father was connected with the FBI in Washington. According to [redacted] his stepson is a member of the Mattachine Society, an organization of homosexuals in Washington. [redacted] desired a review of Bureau indices concerning information on the Mattachine Society; however, was advised of the confidential nature of information in FBI files. The purpose of this memorandum is to advise of the results of the interview with SA Nichols concerning this matter and to recommend appropriate action.

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(Richard) SA Nichols furnished a detailed statement (attached) in which he advised that his son, John Richard Nichols, Jr., age 27, is a homosexual. He is the only child of SA Nichols by his first marriage which ended in divorce. His son lives in the Washington, D. C., area, exact address unknown and is employed as a Counselor at the Capital Radio Engineering Institute. According to SA Nichols, his son also serves as Executive Director of the Mattachine Society in Washington under the name of

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ex-SA Nichols relates that he obtained a divorce from his first wife in July, 1946, and his son was given legal custody of their son. SA Nichols was remarried in March, 1948. SA Nichols was transferred to Philadelphia in July, 1949 and shortly thereafter, his ex-wife was also transferred to that area. On visits with his son, SA Nichols determined that he was a disciplinary problem and the former [redacted] asked him to take his son and raise him. SA Nichols relates that his wife objected and on one occasion when his son was visiting his apartment, his present wife found out by questioning that his son was a homosexual (14 years of age at that time). SA Nichols reveals that he was completely shocked at this and did not confront his son with this information at that time. Subsequently, his son attempted to run away from home and it was determined that he had been associating with an Iranian family in Washington.

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Enclosures

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J. B. Adams to Mr. Callahan memo  
RE: SA J. RICHARD NICHOLS

Following his transfer to Washington in September, 1954, SA Nichols advised that his son admitted to him that he was a confirmed homosexual and had been under psychiatric care. SA Nichols related that he did not call this to the attention of the Bureau because he had not raised his son although he bore his exact name. He states he saw his son occasionally and requested that he protect his father and the Bureau from embarrassment which has been done up to the present time.

SA Nichols states that this situation has caused him considerable emotional concern. SA Nichols says that he sought advice from clergymen; however, they could offer no solution. He attempted to lead his son into a Christian faith but found that he was a confirmed atheist. On one occasion, his son ran away with a girl and contacted SA Nichols from Florida for money. SA Nichols sent his son \$50 thinking that he was beginning to act in a normal manner. His son later married this girl; however, they have separated and are apparently married in name only.

SA Nichols has maintained occasional contact with his son since September, 1954, with restraint so as not to jeopardize his family or embarrass the Bureau. On a recent visit, his son advised him that he was writing articles for homosexual magazines and approximately two or three months ago related that he was the Executive Director of the Mattachine Society which involved considerable travel. In this regard, a check of Bureau files disclosed a May, 1955, edition of the Eastern Mattachine Magazine and [redacted] (the alias used by SA Nichols' son) was listed as being on the staff of the Gazette which is apparently a publication of the Mattachine Society of Washington. On a recent luncheon visit, SA Nichols' son exhibited letters which he had prepared on behalf of the Mattachine Society to ministers, priests and all high Government officials including the Director.

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Approximately six or eight months ago SA Nichols' son advised him that a [redacted] who had married the former [redacted] had called the Capital Radio Engineering Institute and threatened SA Nichols' son with bodily harm. [redacted] is allegedly an alcoholic. Following this call his son moved to an unknown address in Arlington, Virginia. SA Nichols advised that a few months ago he also received a telephone message from a [redacted] in Florida which name was unknown to him and he ignored his request to return the call. [redacted] made two additional efforts to contact SA Nichols; however, SA Nichols states that he continued to ignore the calls.

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In attempting to influence his son to think someday as a normal male SA Nichols has maintained occasional contact with him. SA Nichols relates that he does not want to jeopardize his job or family and if asked to do so by the Bureau, he will stop seeing his son.



**J. B. Adams to Mr. Callahan memo  
RE: SA J. RICHARD NICHOLS**

According to information in Bureau files, the Mattachine Society of Washington was organized in January, 1962, and in 1963 had approximately 300 members in the metropolitan area. This society purports to discuss and act upon all problems relating to the homosexual both general and specific. Its press releases state that the primary aim is directed against the discriminatory policy of the Civil Service Commission which discriminates against homosexuals and attempting to change the policies of the Armed Forces of the United States in their treatment of such individuals. This society believes that civilian and military personnel and those in private industry who are homosexuals should no longer be regarded as security risks. Their efforts have been intensified to bring about legislation which would change this and they are also interested in having local laws changed so there will be no legal action taken against homosexuals. On 10/23/65 approximately 35 individuals picketed the White House to protest discrimination and hostility against homosexual Americans. This demonstration was allegedly sponsored by the Mattachine Society of Washington.

No record of the letter can be found that SA Nichols' son is reported to have sent to the Director and other high Government officials; however, SA Nichols' son may have had reference to the letter which was sent to the President following this demonstration. This letter was signed by [redacted] a member of the Mattachine Society, and contains details concerning their grievances as described above. No identifiable information could be located in Bureau files on SA Nichols' son under his true name or alias other than his alias being listed on the staff of the Gazette. Metropolitan Police Department records were also checked with negative results and only show a 1964 traffic citation for SA Nichols' son.

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**OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

SA Nichols' states that he hopes that he might continue to occasionally contact his son but if the Bureau desires, he will stop seeing him. SA Nichols' failure to advise the Bureau of this problem involving his son is inexcusable. Although his son is using an alias, they have identical names, and this situation could develop into a source of great embarrassment to the Bureau; particularly, in view of his son's more active role in the Mattachine Society.

It is therefore recommended that SA Nichols' be censured, placed on probation, and transferred for his flagrant disregard of regulations which require that employees immediately advise the Bureau of any situation which could possibly be a source of embarrassment to the Bureau.

PERMANENT BRIEF OF SA NICHOLS' FILE IS ATTACHED





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

September 30, 2014

DR. DOUGLAS M CHARLES  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
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FOIPA Request No.: 1288113-000  
Subject: FBI MEMO FROM J.B. ADAMS TO MR.  
CALLAHAN DATED 2/14/1966 FROM FILE NUMBER  
100-403320-138

Dear Dr. Charles:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

Section 552		Section 552a
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
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3 pages were reviewed and 3 pages are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government agency(ies) [OGA].

☐ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

☐ We are consulting with OGA(s). The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☐ In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.